

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength, made from a maraging steel consisting essentially of, by mass, ~~of~~ not more than 0.008% C, 0.01% to from 0 ~~inclusive but not more than 2.0% Si, 0.01% to from 0 inclusive but not more than 3.0% Mn, not more than 0.010% P, not more than 0.005% S, 12 to 22% Ni, 3.0 to 7.0% Mo, not more than 6.9% Co, not more than 0.05% Ti, 0.06 to not less than 0.06 % and not more than 2.0% Al, less than 0.005% N (nitrogen), not more than 0.003% O (oxygen), and the balance substantially Fe,
a total amount of
(3Si + 1.8Mn + Co/3 + Mo + 2.6Ti + 4Al) being in a range of 8.0 to 13.0%,
wherein the maraging steel contains an intermetallic compound of NiAl, and
has a hardness of not less than Hv 502 to not more than Hv 632.~~
2. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 1, further containing not more than 4 mass % Cr.
3. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 1, further containing not more than 0.01 mass % B.
4. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 2, further containing not more than 0.01 mass % B.

5. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having fatigue strength according to claim 4, further containing, by mass, at least one kind selected from the group consisting of not more than 1.0% Nb, not more than 2.0% Ta, and not more than 2.0% W.

6. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 4, further containing, by mass, at least one kind not more than 0.5% in total selected from the group consisting of Nb, Ta, and W.

7. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 1, wherein said steel has crystal grains fine in size which is not less than 9 in ASTM number.

8. (currently amended) A maraging steel strip ~~made by use of a maraging steel~~ according to claim 1, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

9. (currently amended) A maraging steel strip ~~made by use of a maraging steel~~ according to claim 3, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

10. (currently amended) A maraging steel strip ~~made by use of a maraging steel~~ according to claim 5, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

11. (currently amended) A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength, consisting essentially of, by mass, ~~of~~ not more than 0.008% C, 0.01% to from 0 inclusive but not more than 1.0% Si, 0.01% to from 0 inclusive but not more than 2.0% Mn, not more than 0.010% P, not more than 0.005% S, 12 to 22% Ni, 3.0 to 7.0% Mo, not more than 6.9% Co, not more than 0.05% Ti, 0.06 to not less than 0.06% and not more than 2.0% Al, less than 0.005% N (nitrogen), not more than 0.003% O (oxygen), and the balance substantially Fe,

a total amount of $(3\text{Si} + 1.8\text{Mn} + \text{Co}/3 + \text{Mo} + 2.6\text{Ti} + 4\text{Al})$ being in a range of 8.0 to 13.0%,

wherein the maraging steel contains an intermetallic compound of NiAl, and
has a hardness of not less than Hv 502 to not more than Hv 632.

12. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 11, further containing not more than 4 mass% Cr.

13. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 11, further containing not more than 0.01 mass% B.

14. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 12, further containing not more than 0.01 mass% B.

15. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 14, further containing, by mass, at least one kind selected from the group consisting of not more than 1.0% Nb, not more than 2.0% Ta, and not more than 2.0% W.

16. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 14, further containing, by mass, at least one kind not more than 0.5% in total selected from the group containing of Nb, Ta, and W.

17. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 11, wherein said steel has crystal grains fine in size which is not less than 9 in ASTM number.

18. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip made by use of a maraging steel according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ **11**, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

19. (currently amended) A maraging steel strip ~~made by use of a maraging steel~~ according to claim 13, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

20. (currently amended) A maraging steel strip ~~made by use of a maraging steel~~ according to claim 15, comprising a nitride layer formed on a surface portion of said maraging steel, and compressive residual stress in said surface portion.

21. (canceled).

22. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 1, wherein the amount of Co is not less than 3.2%.

23. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength according to claim 11, wherein the amount of Co is not less than 3.2%.

24. (currently amended) A maraging steel strip having high fatigue strength, consisting essentially of, by mass, ~~of~~ not more than 0.008% C, 0.01% to 1.0% Si, 0.01% to from 0 inclusive but not more than 2.0% Si, ~~from 0 inclusive but not more than~~ 3.0% Mn, not more than 0.010% P, not more than 0.005% S, 12 to 22% Ni, 3.0 to 7.0% Mo, not more than 6.9% Co, not more than 0.05% Ti, ~~not less than 0.06 % to and not more than~~ 2.0% Al, less than 0.005% N (nitrogen), not more than 0.003% O (oxygen), and the balance substantially Fe,

wherein said maraging steel contains each of the elements Si, Mn, Co, Mo, ~~[[Ti]]~~ and Al in an amount such that each of said elements is present and meets a total amount of $(3\text{Si} + 1.8\text{Mn} + \text{Co}/3 + \text{Mo} + 2.6\text{Ti} + 4\text{Al})$ being in a range of 8.0 to 13.0%, and an intermetallic compound of NiAl, and

wherein the maraging steel has a hardness of from not less than Hv 502 to not more than Hv 632.

25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip according to claim ~~[[25]]~~ 30, further containing not more than 4.0 mass % Cr.

27. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip according to claim 26, further containing not more than 0.01 mass % B.

28. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip according to claim 27, further containing at least one element selected from the group consisting of not more than 1.0 mass % Nb, not more than 2.0 mass % Ta, and not more than 2.0% W.

29. (currently amended): A maraging steel strip according to claim 28, wherein the total amount of said at least one element is not more than 0.5 mass %.

30. (new): A maraging steel strip according to claim 1, wherein the amount of Al is 0.57 to 2.0%.